DON'T ASK--

JUST BUY!

mazing man

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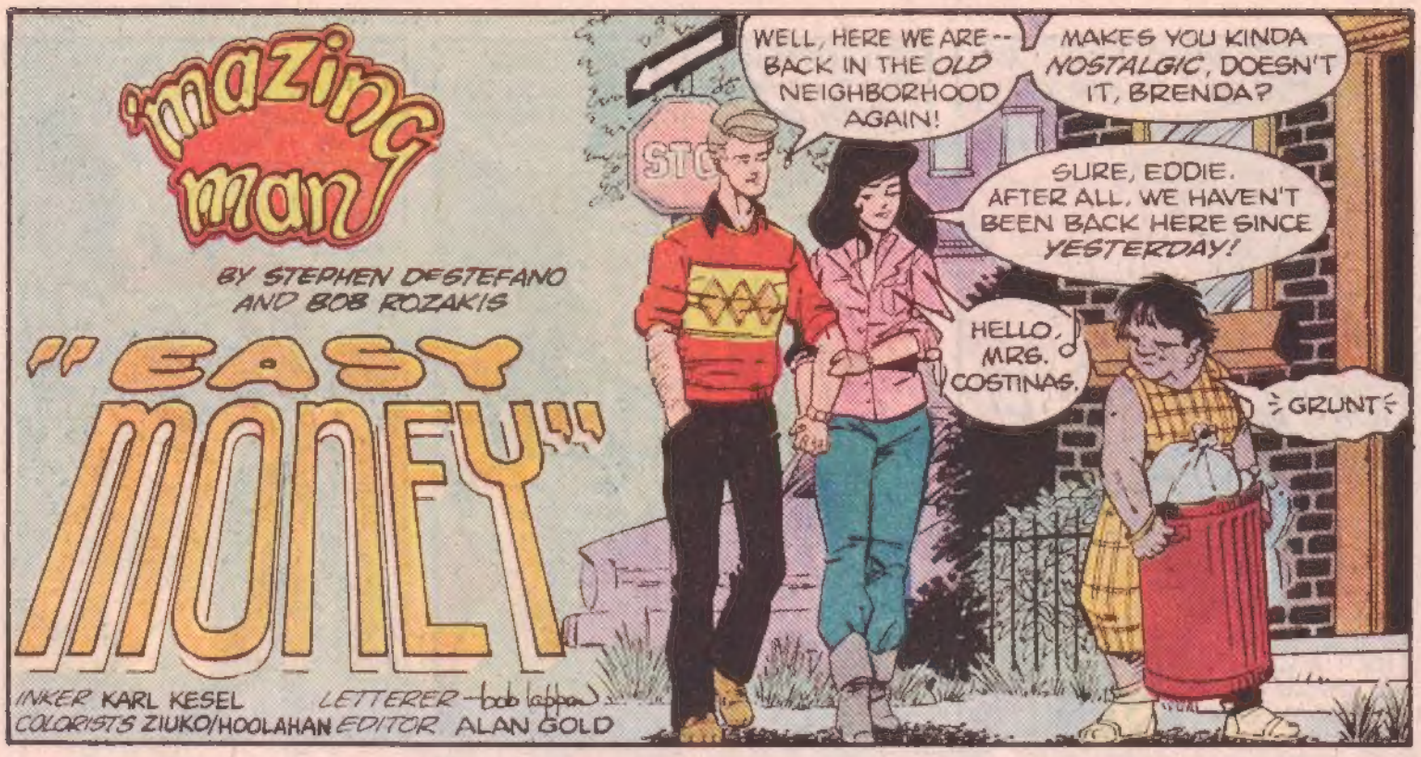
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

E-Z MONEY!

THOSE NICKEL DEPOSITS SURE ADD UP!


'mazing man
BY STEPHEN DESTEFANO AND BOB ROZAKIS
"EASY MONEY"
WELL, HERE WE ARE -- BACK IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD AGAIN!
MAKES YOU KINDA NOSTALGIC, DOESN'T IT, BRENDA?
SURE, EDDIE. AFTER ALL, WE HAVEN'T BEEN BACK HERE SINCE YESTERDAY!
HELLO, MRS. COSTINAS.
GRUNT
INKER KARL KESEL
LETTERER bob lappan
COLORISTS ZIUKO/HOOLAHAN
EDITOR ALAN GOLD

SURE HOPE DENTON'S HOME!
WHY? WE USED TO GO TO MOVIES BY OURSELVES -- REMEMBER?
SURE, BUT A MOVIE LIKE "CITY OF THE WALKING DEAD" I NEED DENTON FOR!

I KNOW -- SO YOU'LL HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO WHILE I'M IN THE LADIES' ROOM BEING SICK TO MY STOMACH.
THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO SPEND A WEEKDAY WE BOTH HAVE OFF, YOU KNOW.

'WHUZ SHAKIN'"! THAT GUY IS A CERTIFIED THROWBACK TO NEANDERTHAL MAN!
BE KIND, EDDIE. NOT EVERYONE CAN BE THE SUPERB WORDSMITH YOU ARE.
IS THAT A COMPLIMENT OR AN INSULT?
YOU DECIDE.

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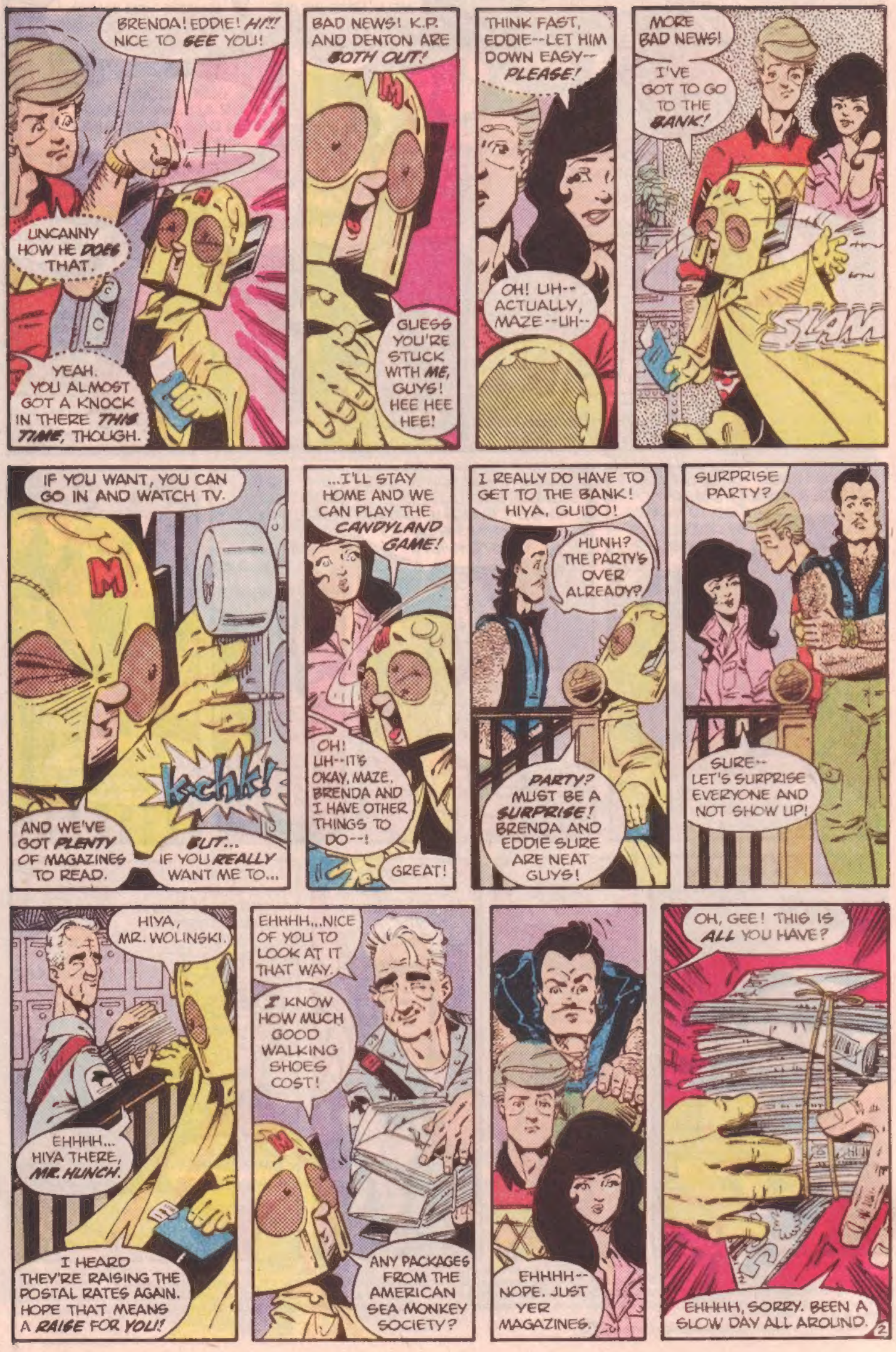
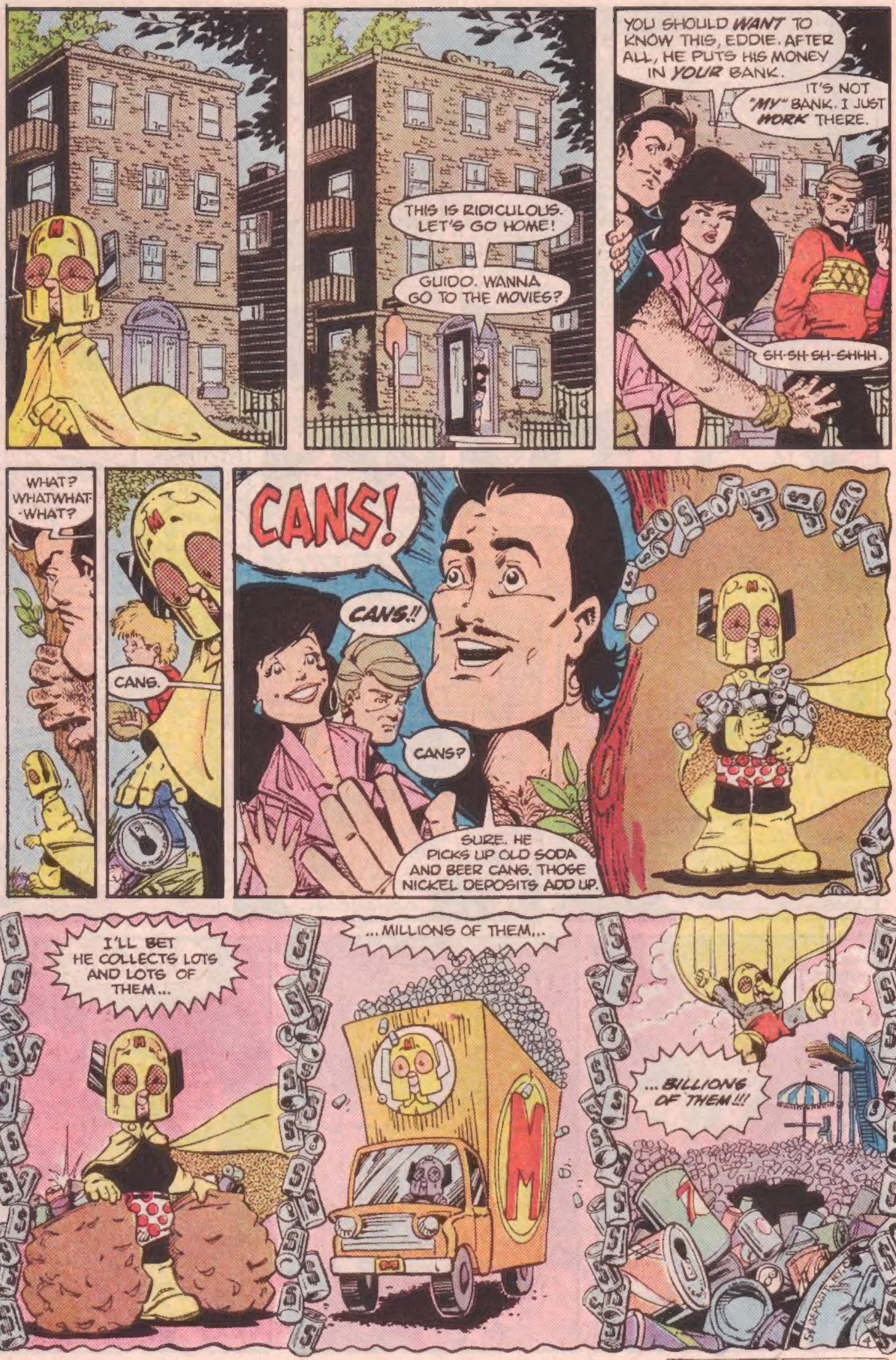

BRENDA! EDDIE! HI!!! NICE TO SEE YOU!
UNCANNY HOW HE DOES THAT.
YEAH. YOU ALMOST GOT A KNOCK IN THERE THIS TIME, THOUGH.
BAD NEWS! K.P. AND DENTON ARE BOTH OUT!
GUESS YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME, GUYS! HEE HEE HEE!
THINK FAST, EDDIE--LET HIM DOWN EASY-- PLEASE!
OH! UH-- ACTUALLY, MAZE--UH--
MORE BAD NEWS!
I'VE GOT TO GO TO THE BANK!
SLAM
IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN GO IN AND WATCH TV.
K-CHK!
AND WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF MAGAZINES TO READ.
BUT... IF YOU REALLY WANT ME TO...
...I'LL STAY HOME AND WE CAN PLAY THE CANDYLAND GAME!
OH! UH--IT'S OKAY, MAZE. BRENDA AND I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DO--!
GREAT!
I REALLY DO HAVE TO GET TO THE BANK! HIYA, GUIDO!
HUNH? THE PARTY'S OVER ALREADY?
PARTY? MUST BE A SURPRISE! BRENDA AND EDDIE SURE ARE NEAT GUYS!
SURPRISE PARTY?
SURE-- LET'S SURPRISE EVERYONE AND NOT SHOW UP!
HIYA, MR. WOLINSKI.
EHHHH... HIYA THERE, MR. HUNCH.
I HEARD THEY'RE RAISING THE POSTAL RATES AGAIN. HOPE THAT MEANS A RAISE FOR YOU!
EHHHH...NICE OF YOU TO LOOK AT IT THAT WAY.
I KNOW HOW MUCH GOOD WALKING SHOES COST!
ANY PACKAGES FROM THE AMERICAN SEA MONKEY SOCIETY?
EHHHH-- NOPE. JUST YER MAGAZINES.
OH, GEE! THIS IS ALL YOU HAVE?
EHHHH, SORRY. BEEN A SLOW DAY ALL AROUND.
2

OHBOYOHBOYOHBOY!
LETTER FROM HOME?
BETTER THAN THAT! THE NEW ENTRY FORM FOR THE PUBLISHER'S READING HOUSE SWEEPSTAKES!
CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME SO I CAN ENTER!
IT TAKES SO LITTLE TO MAKE HIM HAPPY.
I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER LEAVE. C'MON, HON... LET'S GO HOME AND LISTEN TO STREISAND SING "LOVE IN THE AFTERNOON"!
'EY!
YOU GUYS GOT A MINUTE?
SURE, GUIDO-- TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.
HUH? NO, IT'S SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW.
THAT COULD TAKE YEARS!
RIGHT. SO, LOOK-- YOU GUYS WORK. I WORK. EVEN DOG-BREATH WORKS--IF YOU CALL WRITIN' COMIC BOOKS WORKIN'!
BUT 'MAZING MAN-- YOU EVER SEE HIM DO ANYTHING YOU WOULD WANNA CALL "WORK"?
SO?
SO HOWCUM HE'S ALWAYS PUTTIN' LOTS OF MONEY IN THE BANK? HE'S GOTTA BE GETTIN' IT SOMEWHERE'S!
GUIDO, YOU'VE GOT A POINT.
YEAH, ON THE TOP OF HIS HEAD. LISTEN, WHO CARES WHERE MAZE GETS HIS MONEY? MAYBE SIGFRIED HORATIO HUNCH THE SECOND PAID HIM TO RUN AWAY FROM HOME!
YEAH... MAYBE. HAHA
YEAH.
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, EDDIE.
3
WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT.
RIGHT.
FOR THIS I GAVE UP "CITY OF THE WALKING DEAD"?


THIS IS RIDICULOUS. LET'S GO HOME!
GUIDO. WANNA GO TO THE MOVIES?
YOU SHOULD WANT TO KNOW THIS, EDDIE. AFTER ALL, HE PUTS HIS MONEY IN YOUR BANK.
IT'S NOT "MY" BANK. I JUST WORK THERE.
SH-SH-SH-SHHH.
WHAT? WHATWHAT-WHAT?
CANS.
CANS!
CANS!!
CANS?
SURE. HE PICKS UP OLD SODA AND BEER CANS. THOSE NICKEL DEPOSITS ADD UP.
I'LL BET HE COLLECTS LOTS AND LOTS OF THEM...
...MILLIONS OF THEM...
...BILLIONS OF THEM!!!

CONTINUED ON 35 PAGE FOLLOWING.

HERE, BILLY, PUT THE DEPOSIT MONEY TOWARDS YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION.

HEH.

NAAAHH. THAT'S PROBABLY NOT IT.

KA-KA-KA!

SPLASH!

(EXPLETIVE DELETED)

POK!

MAYBE HE HIT IT BIG IN *ATLANTIC CITY*...

GUIDO, YOU DUMMY! BE *SERIOUS!*

O-*KAY*, BABY! MAYBE HE DISCOVERED *URANIUM!*

HEY! WHO'S HE TALKING TO?

OH, THAT'S MRS. RIVERA, SHE'S NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

HI, MRS. R! LOVELY DAY, ISN'T IT?

NUH-NUH-NUH--

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'LL STICK AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO BE *"OLD"* ON THIS BLOCK.

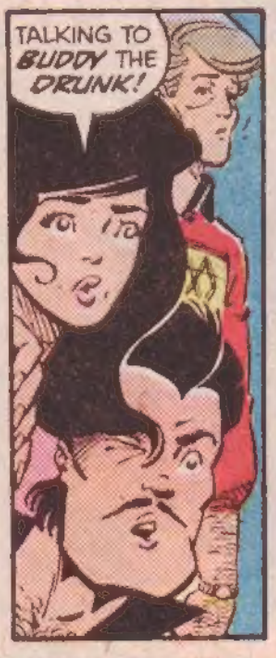
NEVER SEEN A WOMAN RUN THAT *FAST* BEFORE.

MAYBE SHE LEFT HER OVEN ON OR SOMETHIN'.

RIGHT.

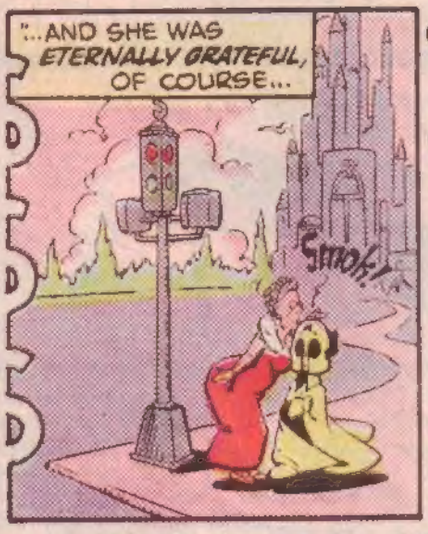
THERE HE GOES. COME ON.
CLUE ME IN, LORD.
WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?
IS THERE ANY REASON IN THE WORLD THAT WE SHOULD KNOW WHERE OR WHY SIGFRIED HORATIO HUNCH THE THIRD GETS HIS MONEY? CRIPES, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE GOT THAT COCKAMAMIE COSTUME OR WHY HE WEARS IT!

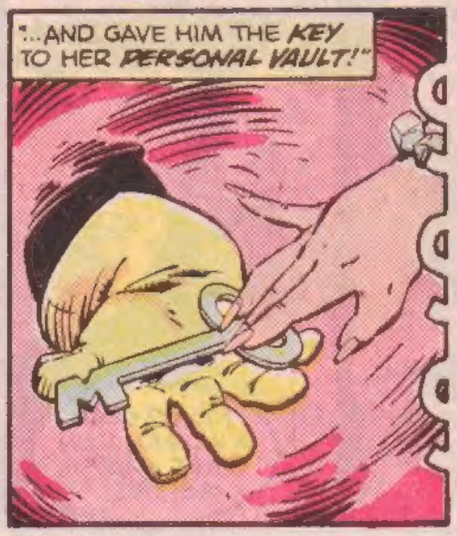
UH--TELL ME HONESTLY, GUYS, AREN'T YOU STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE, UH, STUPID DOING THIS?
SH!
WHAT'S HE DOIN'?

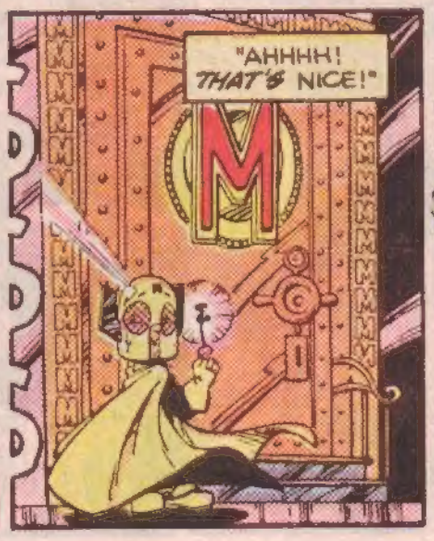

TALKING TO BUDDY THE DRUNK!

WHAT A BOY SCOUT! HELPING BUDDY STAGGER ACROSS THE STREET!

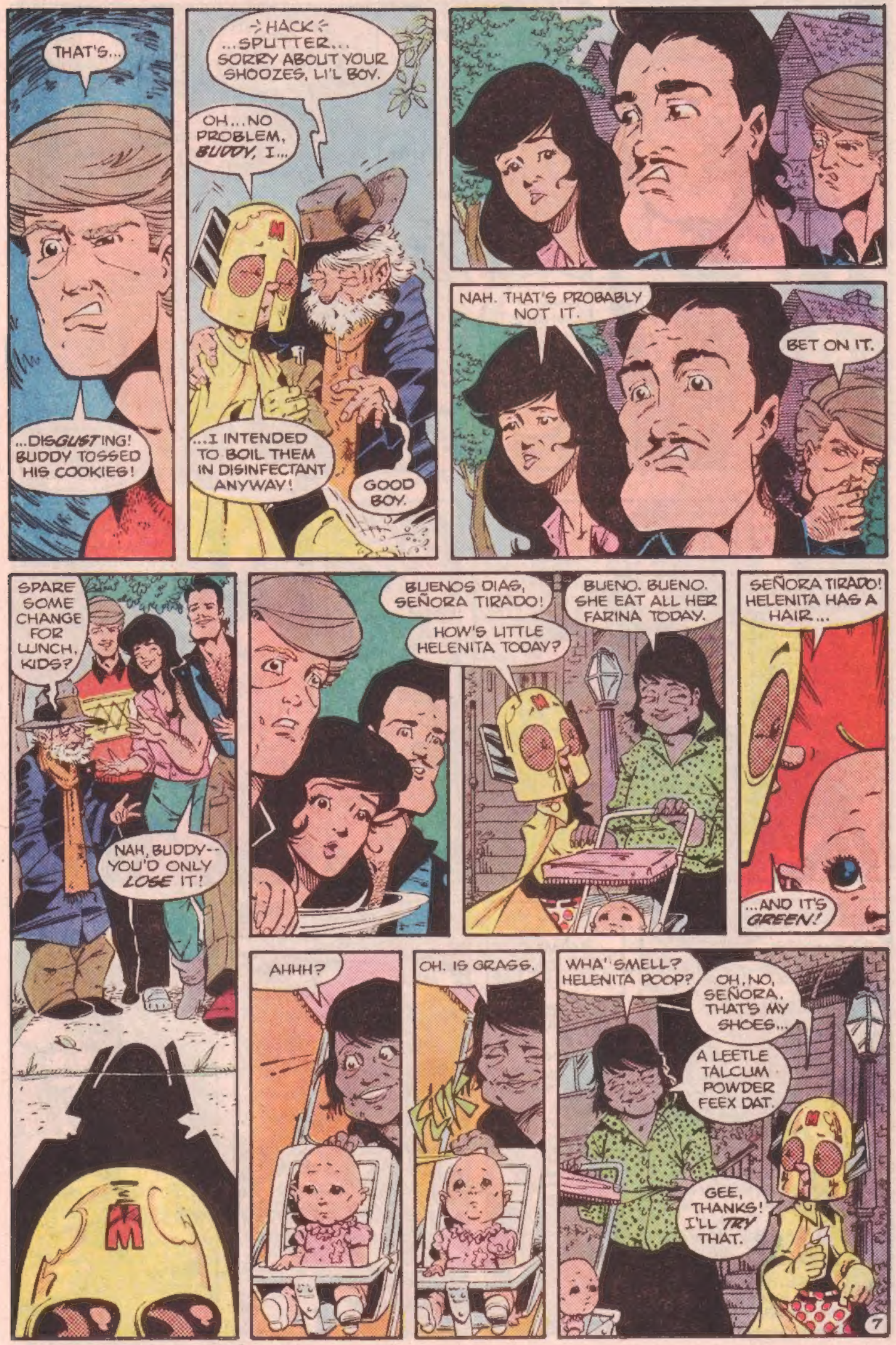
THAT'S THE ANSWER!
I'LL BET ONE TIME HE HELPED SOME MRK $NOOTY-RICH ACROSS THE STREET...

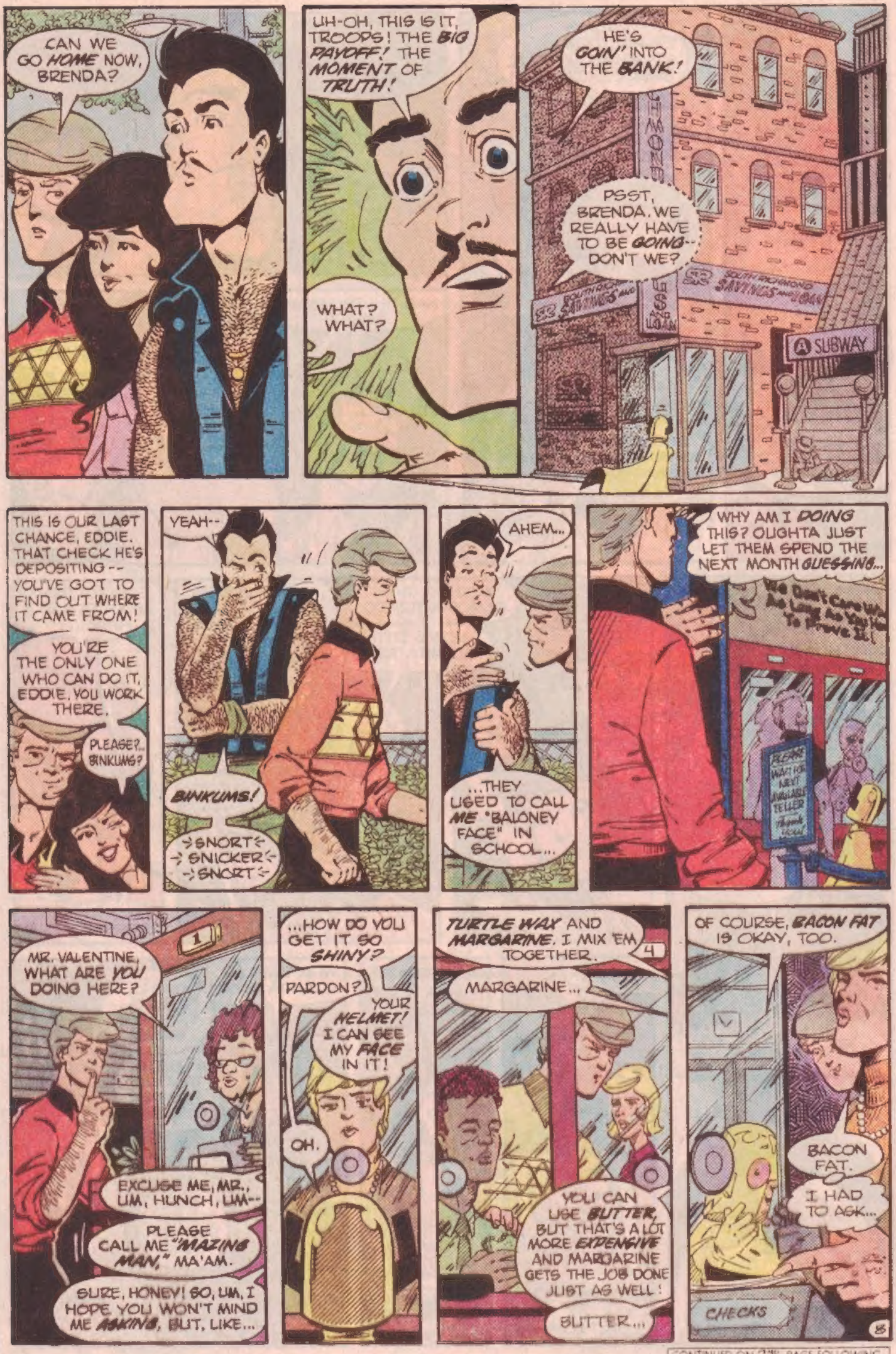

"...AND SHE WAS ETERNALLY GRATEFUL, OF COURSE...
STOP!


"...AND GAVE HIM THE KEY TO HER PERSONAL VAULT!"


"AHHHH! THAT'S NICE!"

RICH


THAT'S...
...DISGUSTING! BUDDY TOSSED HIS COOKIES!
HACK
...SPUTTER...
SORRY ABOUT YOUR SHOOZES, LI'L BOY.
OH...NO PROBLEM, BUDDY, I...
...I INTENDED TO BOIL THEM IN DISINFECTANT ANYWAY!
GOOD BOY.
NAH. THAT'S PROBABLY NOT IT.
BET ON IT.
SPARE SOME CHANGE FOR LUNCH, KIDS?
NAH, BUDDY--YOU'D ONLY LOSE IT!
BUENOS DIAS, SEÑORA TIRADO!
HOW'S LITTLE HELENITA TODAY?
BUENO. BUENO. SHE EAT ALL HER FARINA TODAY.
SEÑORA TIRADO! HELENITA HAS A HAIR...
...AND IT'S GREEN!
AHHH?
OH. IS GRASS.
WHA' SMELL? HELENITA POOP?
OH, NO, SEÑORA. THAT'S MY SHOES...
A LEETLE TALCUM POWDER FEEX DAT.
GEE, THANKS! I'LL TRY THAT.


CAN WE GO HOME NOW, BRENDA?
UH-OH, THIS IS IT, TROOPS! THE BIG PAYOFF! THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!
WHAT? WHAT?
HE'S GOIN' INTO THE BANK!
PSST, BRENDA. WE REALLY HAVE TO BE GOING-- DON'T WE?
SUBWAY
THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE, EDDIE. THAT CHECK HE'S DEPOSITING -- YOU'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHERE IT CAME FROM!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT, EDDIE. YOU WORK THERE.
PLEASE?.. BINKUMS?
YEAH--
BINKUMS!
-SNORT- -SNICKER- -SNORT-
AHEM...
...THEY USED TO CALL ME "BALONEY FACE" IN SCHOOL...
WHY AM I DOING THIS? OUGHTA JUST LET THEM SPEND THE NEXT MONTH GUESSING...
MR. VALENTINE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
EXCUSE ME, MR., UM, HUNCH, UM--
PLEASE CALL ME "MAZING MAN," MA'AM.
SURE, HONEY! SO, UM, I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND ME ASKING, BUT, LIKE...
...HOW DO YOU GET IT SO SHINY?
PARDON?
YOUR HELMET! I CAN SEE MY FACE IN IT!
OH.
TURTLE WAX AND MARGARINE. I MIX 'EM TOGETHER.
MARGARINE...
YOU CAN USE BUTTER, BUT THAT'S A LOT MORE EXPENSIVE AND MARGARINE GETS THE JOB DONE JUST AS WELL!
BUTTER...
OF COURSE, BACON FAT IS OKAY, TOO.
BACON FAT.
I HAD TO ASK...
CHECKS

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

JUST A PEEK AT THAT CHECK AND --
MIS-TER VALENTINE!
OH...UH, HI, MR., UH, VANDERPLATZ, UH, NICE DAY, ISN'T IT...?
I WOULD NOT KNOW, MR. VALENTINE. TODAY IS NOT MY DAY OFF, YOU SEE. IF IT WERE, I WOULD NOT BE IN HERE, YOU SEE, WHERE I AM NOT SUPPOSED TO BE WHEN I AM NOT WORKING!
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT UN-AUTHORIZED PERSONS ARE NOT ALLOWED BEHIND THE TELLER'S WINDOWS!
UM, BUT I...
AND ON YOUR DAY OFF, MR. VALENTINE, YOU ARE AN UN-AUTHORIZED PERSON!
NOW GET OUT THERE AND "ENJOY" YOURSELF!
OUT--!
OUT--!
OUT!!
SOUTH RICHMOND SAVINGS AND LOAN BANK HOURS
UM...SEE YOU TOMORROW

RATS.
THAT OVERBLOWN WINDBAG, CHASING ME OUT OF THE BANK LIKE I WAS A TELLER OR SOMETHING.
I'M THE ASSISTANT TO THE ASSISTANT MANAGER!
AND I WAS THIS CLOSE TO FINDING OUT WHO SENT MAZE THAT CHECK!
THIS CLOSE!
OH, EDDIE, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
WE'LL FIND OUT SOME OTHER TIME.
SOME OTHER TIME?!
BUT I... I... AND HE-HE-HE--
--AND YOU SAID-- OVER AND OVER AND O-
OH.
SPIT!
SMAK
EDDIE, REALLY! YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A TWO-YEAR-OLD. IS IT THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?
IMPORTANT TO ME?!
AM I DREAMING THIS?
SOMETIMES, GUIDO, YOU MEN ARE POSITIVELY INANE!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, ANGEL-FACE! HAW HAW HAW!
MAYBE I'M IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE. ANY MINUTE, ROD SERLING WILL STEP OUT OF THE SHADOWS AND TELL EVERYBODY MY GOOSE IS COOKED!
NAAH. THIS IS TOO STUPID TO BE ANYTHING BUT REALITY!

LATER...
GOT TO SAY, MY IDEA OF A GOOD AFTERNOON IS NOT SPENDING IT CHATTING WITH WAFFLE-BRAINS.
DON'T BE SO NASTY GUIDO KNOWS A LOT ABOUT SHOES!
SHOES. THERE'S A HOT TOPIC OF CONVERSATION!
WELL, IT'S CERTAINLY MORE INTERESTING..
...THAN PONDERING MAZE'S FINANCES FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND TIME!
EHHH...HERE YA GO YOUR COUSIN MERRILL'S IN BERMUDA!
OKAY, I WAS A DRAG.
IT'S JUST YOU GOT ME SO INTERESTED..
SO?
GET INTERESTED IN SOMETHING ELSE
BINKUMS.
KISS!
ANYTHING IN THE MAIL?
WELL, FOR STARTERS HERE'S OUR CHANCE TO WIN A $KILLION DOLLARS IN THE PUBLISHER'S READING HOUSE SWEEPSTAKES!
ARE YOU KIDDING--?
--REAL PEOPLE DO NOT WIN THESE THINGS!
MS ELMA GLOTZENBERG
CHAIRMAN, PRS
MR SIGFRIED H KUNCH III
QUEENS NEW YORK
MR & MRS T.P SKIMMER
PITTSTOWN OKLAHOMA
MR EDWARD VALENTINE
135-96 186 ST
ALTER BEACH, NY 11609
I'LL QUIT NEXT WEEK BE...
???
SE PEOPLE HAVE READY $CN $1000000
The End?

'mazing man

BY STEPHEN DESTEFANO AND BOB ROZAKIS

Kat Kissel — INKER
Bob Lappan — LETTERIST
Linda Lessmann — COLORERS
Alan Gold — EDITOR

OCCUPATIONS

THANKS FOR TREATING ME TO SUCH A GREAT DINNER, K.P. IT MADE SELLING MY FIRST COMIC BOOK STORY REALLY SPECIAL.

OHH--YUCCH!

HEY. I'M GRATEFUL EVEN IF THEY DID MANAGE TO BURN THE LOBSTER!

IT'S NOT THAT! SOME JERK SMEARED AXLE GREASE DOWN THE BANNISTER!

YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN TO MAKE THE CLIMB WITHOUT TOUCHING!

HM. GUESS MAZE IS OUT. ALL THE LIGHTS ARE--

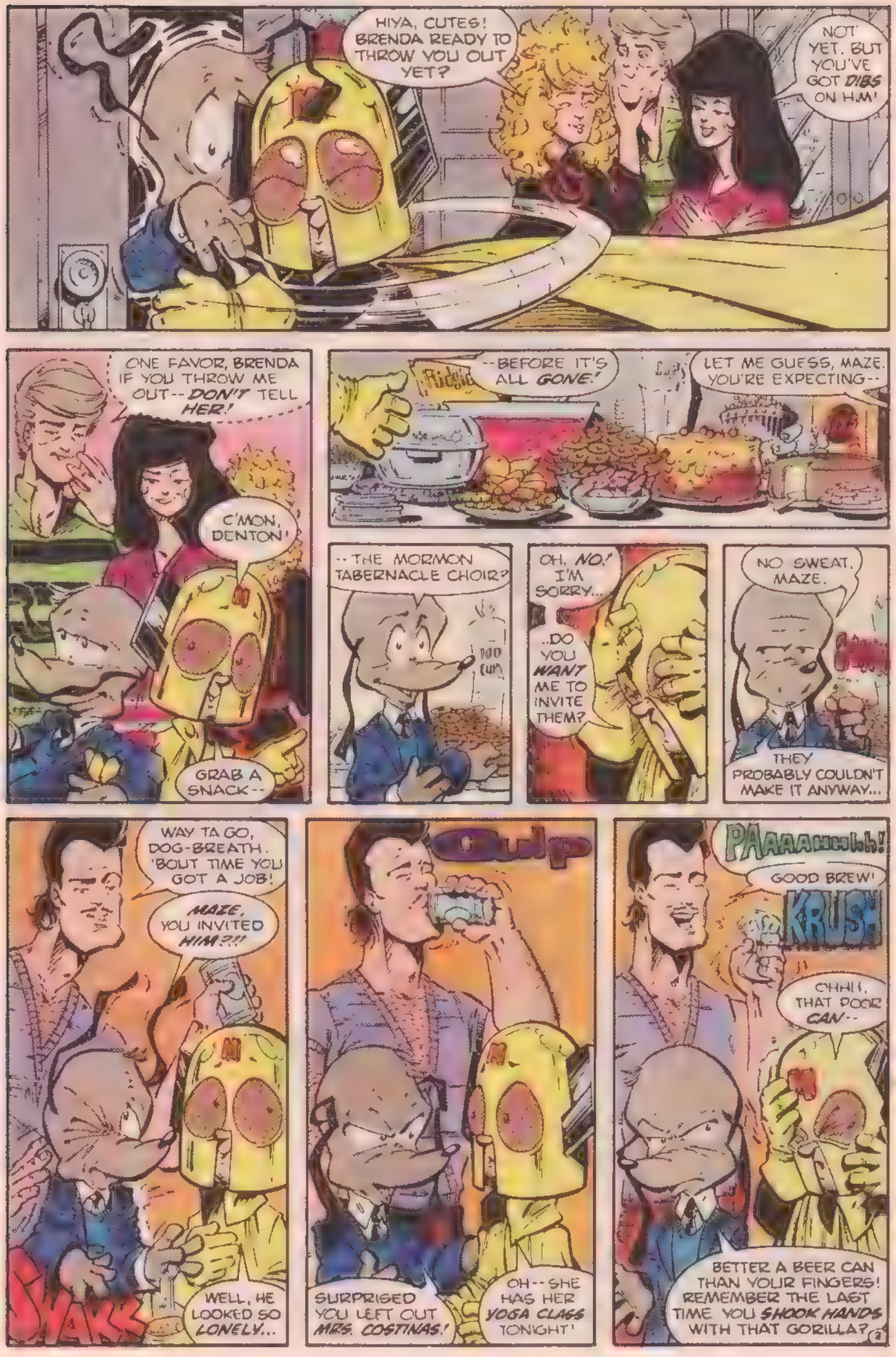
--OFF--

KLIK!

SURPRISE!

ISN'T THIS NEAT, DENTON? WE ALL GOT TOGETHER AND PLANNED THIS PARTY!!

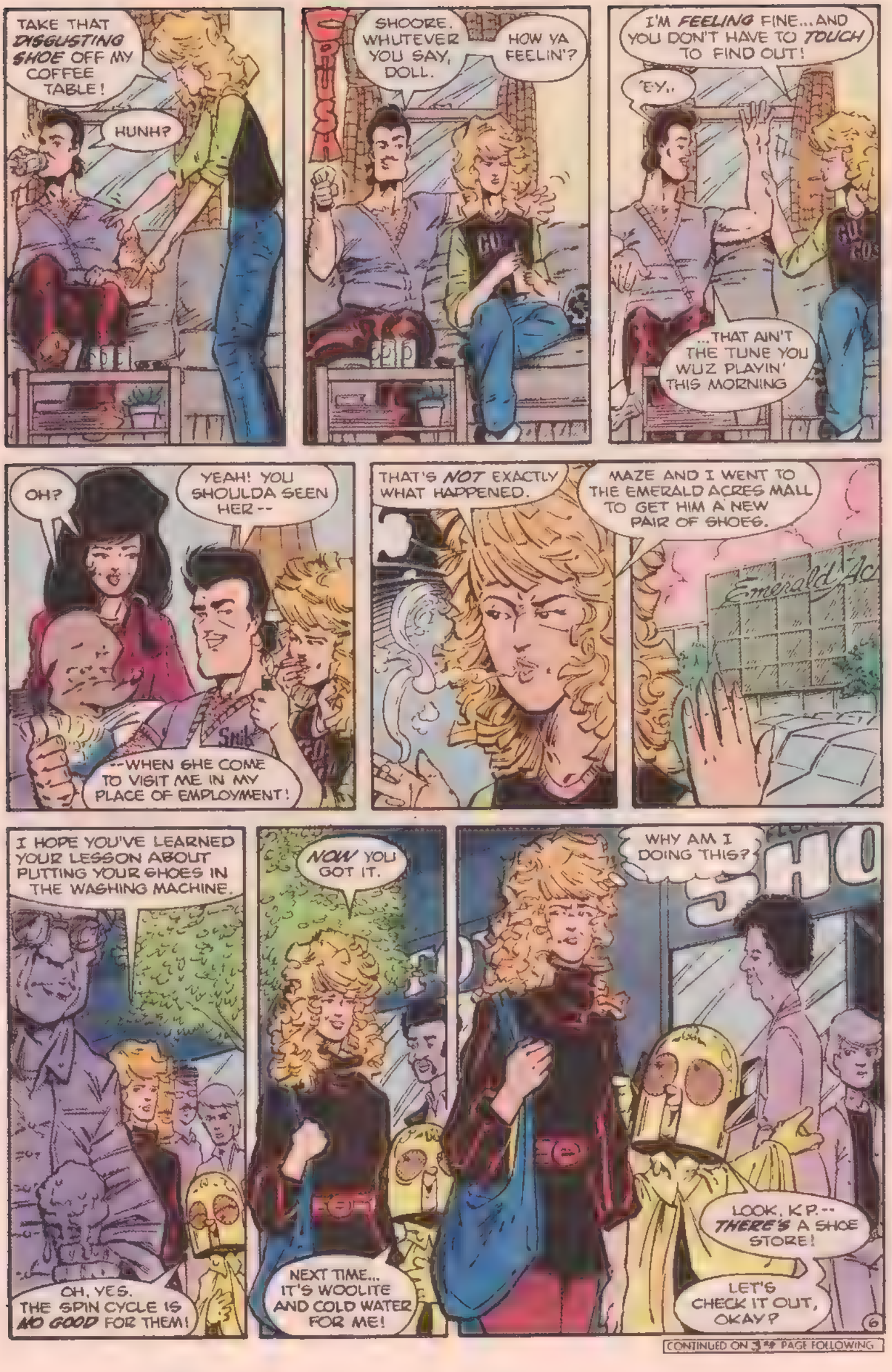
BETCHA NEVER EVEN THOUGHT WE'D DO IT, HUNH?


HIYA, CUTES! BRENDA READY TO THROW YOU OUT YET?
NOT YET. BUT YOU'VE GOT DIBS ON H.M!
ONE FAVOR, BRENDA IF YOU THROW ME OUT-- DON'T TELL HER!
C'MON, DENTON!
GRAB A SNACK--
--BEFORE IT'S ALL GONE!
LET ME GUESS, MAZE. YOU'RE EXPECTING--
--THE MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR?
OH, NO! I'M SORRY...
..DO YOU WANT ME TO INVITE THEM?
NO SWEAT, MAZE.
THEY PROBABLY COULDN'T MAKE IT ANYWAY...
WAY TA GO, DOG-BREATH. 'BOUT TIME YOU GOT A JOB!
MAZE, YOU INVITED HIM?!!!
WELL, HE LOOKED SO LONELY...
Gulp
SURPRISED YOU LEFT OUT MRS. COSTINAS!
OH--SHE HAS HER YOGA CLASS TONIGHT!
PAAAAHHHH!
GOOD BREW!
KRUSH
OHHH, THAT POOR CAN--
BETTER A BEER CAN THAN YOUR FINGERS! REMEMBER THE LAST TIME YOU SHOOK HANDS WITH THAT GORILLA?

BELCH!
GUIDO! YOU'RE THROWING OUT--
--A NICKEL'S WORTH--
--OF HIGHER EDUCATION!
GOTCHA!
GLAD THEY DIDN'T BUY BOTTLES!
THEY GET KINDA MESSY, HEH-HEH.
WHY? YOU BITE THE NECKS OFF?
HAD TO GIVE THAT UP. DENTIST SAID I WAS RUINING MY TEETH..
GUIDO-- WHEN THEY SAY, "HERE'S MUD IN YER EYE," THEY DON'T MEAN IT LITERALLY!
SHOULDA BEEN WEARIN' GLASSES, "BINKUMS."
SO, DENTON, TELL US ABOUT THE WORLD OF COMICS! BET THEY WERE WAITING FOR YOU WITH OPEN ARMS
UH, WELL, NOT EXACTLY...
...THERE WERE A COUPLE OF PEOPLE AHEAD OF ME.
"BUT I HAD A GREAT NEW CONCEPT FOR KRYPTO THE SUPERDOG."
KRYPTO?
DOG STORIES, HEY?
THAT SHOULD BE NATURAL FOR YOU! HEH-HEH.
IGNORE HIM, DENTON.
GRRR--
"ANYWAY, MY PROPOSALS WERE--QUOTE--NOT WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR AT THIS POINT IN TIME--UNQUOTE."

I GUESS THERE'S JUST A GLUT OF TALENTED COMICS WRITERS THESE DAYS.
"FINALLY, I WAS DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE HEAP--E.C. COMICS, A COMPANY I HAD TRIED NOT TO THINK OF...
"E.C. COMICS?"
"THEY'RE ONE OF THE SMALLER OUTFITS... BUT THEY'VE BEEN AROUND SINCE THE FORTIES.
"THEY PUBLISH SPLENDIDMAN, NIGHTMAN & REDBREAST, WONDERFUL WOMAN... AND SPLENDIDDOG.
"A LITTLE ERASING AND MY SCRIPT WAS READY FOR THEM!"
YOU. SEE THE BOSS. THAT WAY.
MR. CORNFELDT?
TALK FASTER
MY NAME'S DENTON FIXX, SIR. I CALLED ABOUT DOING SOME WRITING FOR YOU...?
SPLENDYDDOG, HUNH?
MY BEST CREATION--ONLY MAX, MY WIFE'S THIRD COUSIN (HE SHOULD ONLY GO BROKE)--
--HE BEAT ME TO THE PUNCH BY COMING OUT WITH THIS SUPERMAN CHARACTER FIRST!
WELL, SIR--HEM-- I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT THERE'S ROOM IN THE COMICS BUSINESS FOR EVERY--
THOUGHT HE COULD MAKE ME STOP PUBLISHING SPLENDIDMAN, BUT I FIXED HIM.
HAULED HIM INTO COURT AND SUED THE PANTS OFFA HIM.
I'M 29 YEARS OLD, MISTER CORNFELDT. I'VE WANTED TO BE A COMIC BOOK WRITER SINCE I WAS A BOY.
I COULDN'T PROVE MAX WAS STEALING MY IDEAS.
LUCKILY, MAXIE HAD NOTHIN' ON ME, NEITHER.
THE JUDGE THREW THE CASE OUT...AND US AFTER IT.
SINCE YOU WERE A BOY, YOU SAY?
I'M SURE THE SIMILARITIES OF NIGHTMAN & REDBREAST WITH THAT OTHER COMPANY'S CHARACTERS MAKE AN EQUALLY INTERESTING STORY.
I'M PREPARED TO BELIEVE ONLY YOUR VERSION, OF COURSE.

YOU'RE MY KIND OF WRITER. WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN? YOU DON'T BITE? WELCOME ABOARD!
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE MY OFFICIAL SPLENDIDDOG SCRIPTER.
YOU CAN DRAW ON YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES-- FASTER'N MAKING THINGS UP.
LEMME WRITE YOU YOUR FIRST CHECK. THREE DOLLARS A PAGE... 8 PAGES... $24! STARTING RATE -- BUT YOU'LL BE UP TO FIVE DOLLARS A PAGE IN A COUPLA YEARS.
NEXT WEEK, BRING ANOTHER STORY TYPE NEAT.
NOW, GET OUTTA MY OFFICE.
TWENNY-FOUR BUCKS A WEEK?! DOGGIE CHOW'S GOTTA COST MORE'N THAT!
PLAY NICE, BOYS. EXCUSE ME WHILE I POWDER MY NOSE.
GRRRR.
I'LL KEEP YER SEAT WARM, TOOTS.
DON'T DO ME ANY FAVORS, GUIDO!
CAN'T GO IN THERE RIGHT NOW, BRENDA IT'S OCCUPIED!
DON'T TELL ME!... SOME OF YOUR COSTUMED PALS ARE HOLDING A MEETING IN THERE, RIGHT?
OH, BRENDA... YOU KNOW THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER COSTUMED HEROES IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!
GOOD THING
YEAH. HEEHEE. IT COULD GET CONFUSING. HEE HEE.
6


TAKE THAT DISGUSTING SHOE OFF MY COFFEE TABLE!
HUNH?
SHOORE. WHUTEVER YOU SAY, DOLL.
HOW YA FEELIN'?
I'M FEELING FINE...AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO TOUCH TO FIND OUT!
'EY..
...THAT AIN'T THE TUNE YOU WUZ PLAYIN' THIS MORNING
OH?
YEAH! YOU SHOULDA SEEN HER --
--WHEN SHE COME TO VISIT ME IN MY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT!
THAT'S NOT EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.
MAZE AND I WENT TO THE EMERALD ACRES MALL TO GET HIM A NEW PAIR OF SHOES.
I HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON ABOUT PUTTING YOUR SHOES IN THE WASHING MACHINE.
OH, YES. THE SPIN CYCLE IS NO GOOD FOR THEM!
NOW YOU GOT IT.
NEXT TIME... IT'S WOOLITE AND COLD WATER FOR ME!
WHY AM I DOING THIS?
LOOK, K.P.-- THERE'S A SHOE STORE!
LET'S CHECK IT OUT, OKAY?
6
CONTINUED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

LOOKS LIKE AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY.
'EYYY! K.P.-BABY! YOU COME TO VISIT ME IN MY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT! AIN'T DAT SWEET!
UH, ACTUALLY, WE CAME IN HERE TO BUY 'MAZING MAN SOME SHOES.
HI!
HIYA, KID.
WAIT A COUPLA MINUTES, BABY. WE COULD HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER.
PUSH
GUIDO -- IT'S 9:30 IN THE MORNING.
NO PROBLEM.
YO-- BOSS! I WANTCHA TA MEET SOME-BODY!
'EYY, GUIDO -- THIS YOUR LADY? COME TO VISIT YOU AT YOUR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT?
THAT'S SWEET!
YEAH, RIGHT?!
I LOVE IT! I LOVE IT!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, K.P. I DON'T WANT TO MISS ANY OF THIS. BE RIGHT BACK.

IT'S OC-CU-PIED!
SO YOU'RE PLAYING WATCHMAN, EH?
WELL, WHY COULDN'T WHOEVER'S IN THERE JUST LOCK THE DOOR? IT'D SAVE YOU RUNNING OVER HERE.
OHHHH. GOOD IDEA!
WHAT'S DIS STUFF?
THAT'S POT-ROAST! MRS. SAX THOUGHT I LOOKED HUNGRY, SO SHE BROUGHT IT OVER.
GEEZ, I CAN'T GET A WOMAN TO COOK ME DINNER!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE TO COOK A SIX-PACK!
CAN I CONTINUE NOW?
YEAH--SIT DOWN, EDDIE. I'M DYING TO HEAR THE REST OF THIS GREAT ADVENTURE!
SO? DID YOU AND GUIDO HAVE LUNCH AT 9:30 IN THE MORNING?
ARE YOU KIDDING?
THEN WE WORKED OUR WAY AROUND THE MALL. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MANY SHOE STORES THEY HAVE THERE.
'MAZE AND I BOUGHT A PAIR OF GREEN SHOELACES AND A TIE BOX AND LEFT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH...UH...I WANTED TO SLIDE UP THE RAILING.

"ANYWAY, BY TWO O'CLOCK WE'D WORKED OUR WAY DOWN TO THE ONLY SHOE STORE WE HADN'T BEEN IN..."
WELL, IS THIS THE STORE?
WILL THIS BE WHERE OUR HOLY QUEST ENDS?
GEE, I DON'T KNOW, K.P.--
--MAYBE I SHOULD TRY SNEAKERS.
'EYYY!
YOU COME TO VISIT ME IN MY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT!
GUIDO.
HI...
YOU MEAN, THEY WERE REALLY BACK WHERE THEY STARTED?
NO WAY! A MACHO GUY LIKE ME CANNOT AFFORD THE PROPER LIFE-STYLE BY WORKING IN A SHOE STORE!
SO YOU WORK IN TWO OF THEM?!
NAHHH, THAT WOULD BE STOOPID!
I WORK IN THREE!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
HoHaHaHaHa
I MAY DREAD SHOE-SHOPPING AS LONG AS I LIVE.
GO GO
'EY, WHAT'S SO FUNNY? I'M OUT THERE PULLIN' MY WEIGHT IN THE WORKIN' WORLD--DON'T CATCH ME SPONGIN' OFFA SOCIETY, EATIN' FOOD STAMPS OR SOMEPHIN'. IF I WASN'T WORKIN', WHO DYA THINK'D BE PAYIN' FOR ALL THIS BEER I'M DRINKIN'?
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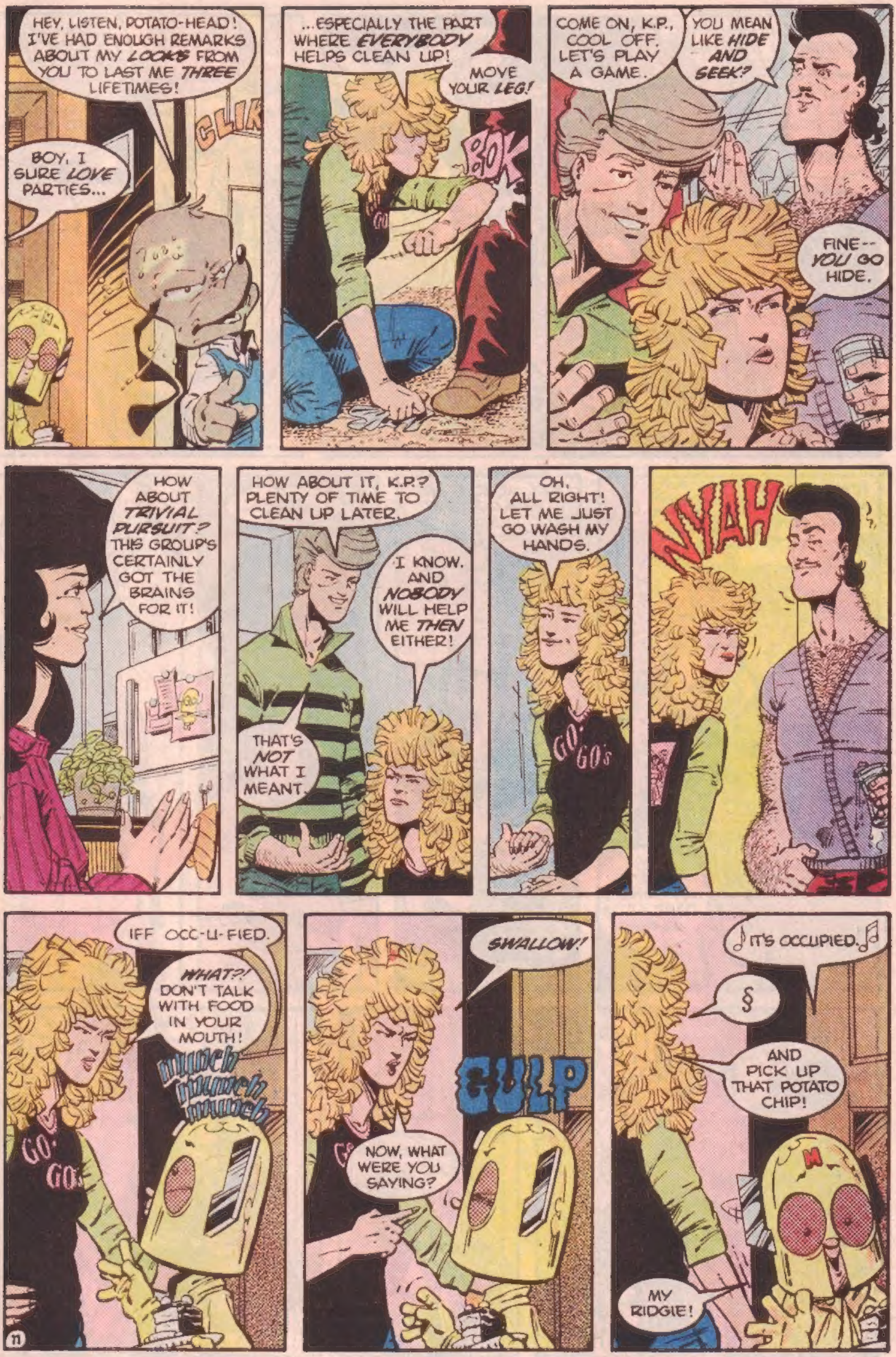
I BOUGHT THE BEER, GUIDO..
AND IT WOULD PROBABLY BE A GOOD IDEA IF YOU STOPPED DRINKING.
YOU APPEAR TO HAVE HAD ENOUGH!
OH, GIVE HIM A BREAK, K.P. YOU SOUND LIKE HIS MOTHER!
HE'S A GROWN MAN... HE'LL KNOW WHEN HE'S HAD ENOUGH!
GO AHEAD, GUIDO, DRINK UP. YOU'RE JUST STARTING TO BE FUNNY!
SPANK!
THEN AGAIN...
NO WONDER IT WAS SO HARD TO CRUNCH!
THANKS A HEAP, GUIDO. NOW I'LL SPEND THE REST OF THE NIGHT SMELLING LIKE... LIKE YOU!
IT'S OC-CU..
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
BUMP
UH... THE LOCK IS BROKEN.
'EY, POOCH-PUSS. I'LL BET THE FIRE HYDRANT ON THE CORNER IS FREE!
MUNCH. WHERE'D MY RIDGIES GO?

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING


HEY, LISTEN, POTATO-HEAD! I'VE HAD ENOUGH REMARKS ABOUT MY LOOKS FROM YOU TO LAST ME THREE LIFETIMES!
CLIK
BOY, I SURE LOVE PARTIES...
...ESPECIALLY THE PART WHERE EVERYBODY HELPS CLEAN UP!
MOVE YOUR LEG!
BOK
COME ON, K.P., COOL OFF. LET'S PLAY A GAME.
YOU MEAN LIKE HIDE AND SEEK?
FINE-- YOU GO HIDE.
HOW ABOUT TRIVIAL PURSUIT? THIS GROUP'S CERTAINLY GOT THE BRAINS FOR IT!
HOW ABOUT IT, K.P.? PLENTY OF TIME TO CLEAN UP LATER.
I KNOW. AND NOBODY WILL HELP ME THEN EITHER!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
OH, ALL RIGHT! LET ME JUST GO WASH MY HANDS.
GO-GO's
NYAH
IFF OCC-U-FIED.
WHAT?! DON'T TALK WITH FOOD IN YOUR MOUTH!
munch munch munch
SWALLOW!
GULP
NOW, WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?
♪ IT'S OCCUPIED. ♪
§
AND PICK UP THAT POTATO CHIP!
MY RIDGIE!

YOU KNOW, A LOT OF THE ANSWERS IN THAT GAME ARE WRONG!
YOU SAY THAT EVERY TIME YOUR ANSWER IS WRONG!
ONE... TWO... THREE...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
MAZE JUST TOLD ME THE BATHROOM'S OCCUPIED. I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO'S IN THERE!
GO' GO's
IT'S TOO EASY TO ASK HIM RIGHT OUT, HUNH?
'EY, THIS IS MY KINDA GAME. LET'S GLEGG!
OKAY...HE TOLD ME IT WAS OCCUPIED, TOO.
AND ME.
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON WE DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT?
♪ OH, MAY-AZE...
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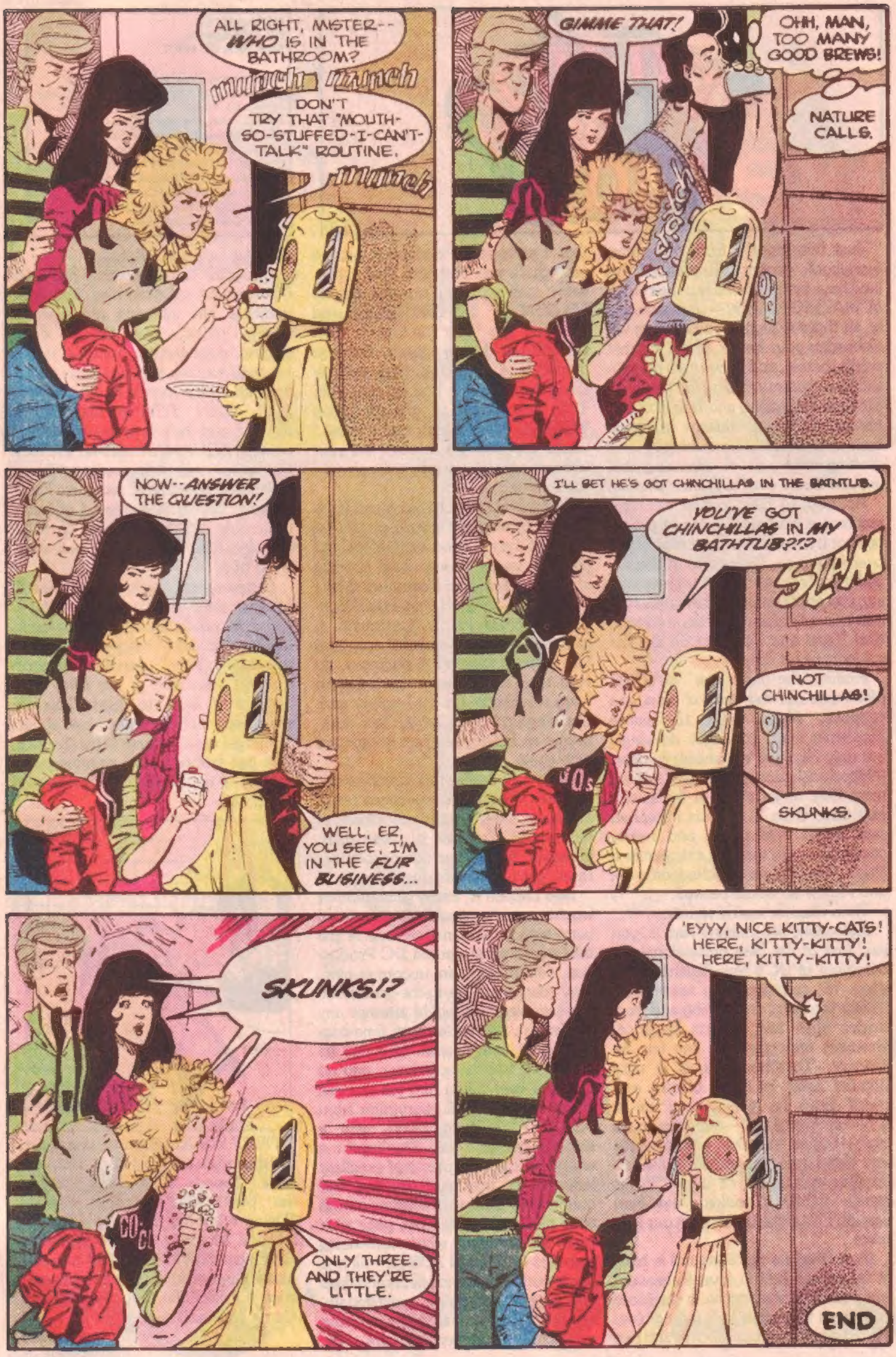
ALL RIGHT, MISTER-- WHO IS IN THE BATHROOM?
munch munch
DON'T TRY THAT "MOUTH-SO-STUFFED-I-CAN'T-TALK" ROUTINE.
Munch
GIMME THAT!
OHH, MAN, TOO MANY GOOD BREWS!
NATURE CALLS.
NOW--ANSWER THE QUESTION!
WELL, ER, YOU SEE, I'M IN THE FUR BUSINESS...
I'LL BET HE'S GOT CHINCHILLAS IN THE BATHTUB.
YOU'VE GOT CHINCHILLAS IN MY BATHTUB?!?
SLAM
NOT CHINCHILLAS!
SKUNKS.
SKUNKS!?
ONLY THREE. AND THEY'RE LITTLE.
'EYYY, NICE KITTY-CATS! HERE, KITTY-KITTY! HERE, KITTY-KITTY!
END

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Just two months from now, after funnybook vendors throughout this land have instantly sold out their stock of 'MAZING MAN #1—simultaneously, all three skillion of you readers will disburden your hearts of the joy that swells therein, and I'll be up to my eyelashes in letters praising the genius of Stephen DeStefano and Bob Rozakis. Meanwhile, three stalwart artists in their own right will be sulking at their drafting tables, never dreaming that anyone would ever sing their praises.

Actually, to date, two of 'em have received a brimming mess of praise, but not from any fan. The crooner has been Stephen DeStefano himself—and if you've ever heard Stephen singing, you appreciate the sheer nerves of iron required of us comic book editors. Karl Kesel and Bob Lappan are the subjects of his ditty.

Finding the inker for 'MAZING MAN was not the piece o' cake you suppose. Many tried to realize Stephen's faint, eccentric drawings, but only Karl got 'em uncannily right. (Nobody asked me, but I think this is a team that ranks right up there with chocolate chips 'n peanuts.) Stephen saw Karl's first pages and nearly swooned—well, maybe I exaggerate a little... Then he went cockadoodle-do, and I knew all would be well.

Then disaster nearly struck.

Agreeable, self-effacing Karl is, you see, one of the best professionals to come out of DC's New Talent Workshop. He commands an astonishing facility for every cartooning and illustration style and imparts elegance, strength, and grace to any line he renders. Therefore, he is a very popular feller in these offices, and every time he gets ahead on a schedule, somebody—often *not* yours truly—begins to snivel and wheedle and plead until he commits himself to another assignment or three. So for awhile there, it looked like Karl wouldn't have the time to join our jolly crew.

Now Stephen the Songbird is hard to take when he's in seventh heaven, but you don't want to be in the same county as him when he's feeling blue. He did everything but roll over and beg that I strong-arm Karl back on the project. It was pathetic. Karl meanwhile was working on the deluxe LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES and was just too busy for Ozone Park Adventures. For a month, Stephen moped and muttered that nobody loved him and life had no meaning. Then one day Karl started inking 'MAZING MAN again, and I knew I would probably get through the year without having to strangle Stephen in some alley.

There isn't much to say about Karl. He hasn't been in the business all that long and he's a quiet, normal-looking guy. He wears awfully loud bowling shoes, and I suspect his mother thinks he needs a haircut. He has a real Coca-Cola machine in his apartment. A gangland murder happened around it and nobody wanted it anymore, so Karl took it. He hopes someday to have a jukebox on his kitchen wall. Growing up in Rochester, New York, seems to have given him some very high goals.

Many fans realize that comic art is a complex collaboration between pencil artist and inker, and I expect loads of fanmail for Karl one of these days. However, two other co-conspirators rarely get the honors due them.

Bob Lappan is, as my grandmother would say, "original." A couple of years ago he was merely one of the best board artists in the DC Production department, an uncomplaining, easy-going, nose-to-the-grindstone perfectionist who would attempt any correction, no matter how time-consuming or complicated. One day he became a free-lance letterer, and no one has ever taken him for granted since. He's lettered everything from ATARI FORCE to ZOT!, with a singular zest and flair. Don't get me wrong ... there are plenty of excellent letterers in this industry, but few continue to outdo themselves month after month, job after job, page after page. He created a whole convincing alphabet for ATARI FORCE—all in a day's work. His sound effects and titles are always surprising, appropriate, and full of life. He even writes priceless marginalia commenting on the dialogue he's just lettered.

His jobs before comics included bookbinding, silk-screening, and sign-painting. His interests are science fiction, music, type design, calligraphy, page design, drawing, painting, and writing. His lettering can be enjoyed every month in TALES OF THE TEEN TITANS and BLUE DEVIL, and he's lettered the forthcoming AQUAMAN mini-series, too. He writes that he's studied "X-ray vision and non-atomic structure" and collects "words and printed objects, preferably out-of-register or partially sun-bleached," but I don't believe a word of it.

Letterers are usually unappreciated because their art is only successful if you *don't* notice it unless you go back for a second look. That goes double for colorists. In Tom Ziuko we have one of the real craftsmen of the field. But, because I love to keep you in suspense, I won't say any more about Tom right now. In my next text feature (the last before I start printing your letters) I'll have a word or two to say about him.

NEXT ISSUE: It's party-time again, but this one's a far cry from "Occupations." Brenda drags Eddie along to her boss's ever-so-proper digs in "Doing What Married People Do." In addition, Mr. Sax (Jonathan's father—remember MM #1?) resolves to repay Maze once and for all for his heroism—even if it kills him. Sounds different? Come back and see!

—Alan